



1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GOJI

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NEWSLETTER
of the

Honpa Hongwanji
Hawaii Betsuin

www.hawaiihetsuin.org

2016 Slogan:

Embrace Change:
New Vision
(Create Engagement)

BETSUIN
MINISTERS

Chief Minister
Rev. Toyokazu Hagio

Ministerial Staff
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
Rev. Arthur Kaufmann
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
Rev. Joshin Kamuro

Please come and enjoy the Bodhi Day services!

Hawaii Buddhist Council Bodhi Day Service

December 4, 2016 at Jodo Mission at 9:30 am

Hawaii Betsuin Bodhi Day Service

December 11, 2016 Hawaii Betsuin Main Temple at 9:30 am

Bodhi Day is the day we express our appreciation and joy to Shakyamuni Buddha. Shakyamuni Buddha was the founder of all Buddhist traditions, so all Buddhist sects, not only our Jodo Shinshu sect celebrate this day to commemorate Shakyamuni Buddha's attainment of Enlightenment.

In our tradition, we have two major Buddhas. One is Amida Buddha and the other is Shakyamuni Buddha. Many people are a little confused about the difference between those two Buddhas. Amida Buddha's image is in the Hawaii Betsuin main temple altar. Amida did not historically exist in this world. On the other hand, Shakyamuni Buddha, who was a regular human being, lived about 2500 years ago. He was a prince of the Shakya clan in India, and his original name was Siddhartha Gautama. He left his castle at the age of 29 to find the way to solve people's sufferings. On the dawn of December 8, at the age of 35, Siddhartha Gautama reached Enlightenment as he sat under the Bodhi tree. He then became a Buddha: the Awakened One.

So, what is the relationship between those two Buddhas? It is written in the Larger Sutra. One day, Shakyamuni Buddha gave a sermon to monks and nuns at Vulture Peak. The content of his sermon was Amida Buddha who is a Buddha who provides comfort and benefit to all sentient beings. Shakyamuni Buddha explained to those monks and nuns about Amida Buddha's nature and Vows. There was a king named Dharmakara. King Dharmakara wanted to save everybody from sufferings and thought thoroughly about how to get it done. After a lengthy time of consideration and establishment of Vows to save all, Dharmakara became Amida Buddha. This is the story Shakyamuni Buddha told the monks and nuns to let them realize about the Truth: Amida Buddha.

Those two Buddhas are both very important to our tradition. Amida Buddha is the one who always embraces us, removes suffering, and gives joy. But without Shakyamuni Buddha, we may not have been able to encounter Amida Buddha whose Great Compassion and Wisdom embraces us always. On this occasion of Bodhi Day, let us together express our appreciation to Shakyamuni Buddha who guided us to the Truth and who introduced Amida Buddha to this world.

Please join us for our
Annual New Year's
Services:

New Year's Eve
Sat. December 31, 2016
at 11:00 pm

New Year's Day
Sun. January 1, 2017
at 10:00 am



Dharma Message: “Bodhi Day”

This month, we will remember an event in the history of mankind. This event happened to a human being, like you and me.

It was not the usual kind of thing that is noticed by history; it was not the winning of a great military battle or a war, nor was it the shaking of the earth in some natural disaster or the passing of a comet or some such thing.

As a matter of fact, as human events go, had not some people been able to recognize the significance of this event, it probably would have gone by completely unnoticed.

If the young man, whose name was Siddhartha Gautama, had not spoken up about what had happened to him,

no one would have known. No one would have known about Siddhartha's awakening to Enlightenment. The Wheel of Dharma would not have been turned, meaning that we would not have become aware of the teachings of the Enlightened One.

It is often said that Siddhartha “attained” or “achieved” Enlightenment as if it were something to conquer, but I think it would be better to use the statement of Dogen Zenji, founder of Soto Zen, who said it was more a case of “the Dharma attaining Siddhartha.” Siddhartha was able to subdue his ego long enough to receive the Dharma freely, and from that instant, he was immersed in it. Siddhartha did not achieve or create or conquer anything, but he did gain insight into something that had always existed and always will exist, and he would later teach, the Dharma of Enlightenment.

In Rev. Nobuo Haneda's publication *Dharma Breeze* (vol. IV-1, Mar 2000) in an article entitled “What is Amida Buddha?” he speculates about the last meditation that Siddhartha entered under the Bodhi tree before entering Enlightenment. He writes this: “Although he had studied various doctrines and practiced under them, he found that they could not lead him to the ultimate peace he was seeking. Thus, having travelled from the Princely life to that of an ascetic to the very edge of his life, he sat under a tree. With firm determination, he said to himself, ‘Never shall I stir from this seat until I have attained the most perfect awakening.’ Then he started to meditate.”

“In his meditation Siddhartha asked, ‘What am I? Do I have anything permanent in myself?’ He examined his body, things such as his skin, muscles, bones, and blood. He also examined his mind, things such as sensation, conception, volition, and consciousness. Then he realized that everything in his body and mind was constantly changing and flowing, and there was nothing permanent.”

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann

There, Siddhartha was confronted with the reality of existence, impermanence. Of course, this was not his only insight

into the Dharma, but it appears that Dr. Haneda seems to think it was one of his most important insights.

When we look at impermanence it speaks to Siddhartha's observations of birth, sickness, old age, and death. Siddhartha realized early on the sufferings of human existence. He further realized that his Mother, Father, Wife, Son, and he, himself, would also experience these sufferings, and it was this knowledge that led him to seek answers as to why we experience these sufferings.

Although his quest took him six arduous years, his resolve was not shaken, and he finally did realize the answers to his questions and so much more.

It must be remembered that as a Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama was under no obligation to teach. He could have spent the rest of his physical existence exploring his enlightenment not saying another word. I have been taught though that the essential elements of Enlightenment are infinite wisdom and boundless compassion that goes beyond anything we, as human beings, living the ordinary life, are capable of acquiring.

As a Buddha, I think having found his own answers, he became acutely aware of the sufferings of all human beings and that it was that boundless compassion that led him to turn the wheel of the dharma to help alleviate our suffering.

This is part of the process of awakening to gratitude which is so important to the life of a Shin Buddhist. To acknowledge gratefully our indebtedness to the Buddha and to all of life which sustains us. Namoamidabutsu
Shaku Art Kaufmann



GOJI

The **GOJI** is a monthly publication of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Tel. (808) 536-7044. There is no newsletter published for the month of August.

DEADLINE:

Articles must be submitted no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication. Mail (1727 Pali Hwy, Honolulu, HI, 96813), fax (536-0919), or e-mail (hibetsuin@hawaii.rr.com) all items to the **GOJI**. Please include your name and contact information. Original images should be labeled on the reverse side with caption and return information.

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The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Betsuin Dharma School News:

October 23 - Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma Schools Annual Pumpkin Patch Event

Pumpkins, sunflowers, string bean/corn picking, tractor rides and fun... The Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma School families filled up a bus and headed to Aloun Farms in Kapolei on Sunday, October 23. Amidst the sun, the dust and the large crowds, everyone picked their choice of pumpkins and rode the bus back to the Betsuin, anxious to bring their designs to life by carving their pumpkins hoping to create a winner for the carving contest.



the students and families carve their pumpkins while picking out their favorites in the categories of Most Compas-

sionate, Most Funny, Most Creative and The Scariest. A wonderful time was had by all!



October 30 - Dharma Talk by 4th-5th Grade & Middle School

A timely Halloween message of Dana and compassion was shared by the 4th & 5th graders and Middle School students, and their teacher, Jovie Yoshioka. The story of Hallo-Wiener

Meanwhile back at the Betsuin, Laura Nakasone, Doris Fujiwara, Roy Yonamine, Albert and Liane Wong were working tirelessly to prepare an onolicious lunch for the group: hot dogs, chili, rice, and lots of desserts and other goodies.

After a heartfelt Words of Thanksgiving message from Sensei Barbara Brennan, lunch was served! We were happy to have the BWA ladies join our festivities. They enjoyed this intergenerational event and watched

by Dav Pilkney was brought to life as Oscar the Dachshund (named after Oscar Mayer) aka Byron Saito showed compassion by wearing a Halloween costume that his mother (Naho Umitani) made for him to avoid hurting her feelings. Oscar also showed compassion and Dana when he scared the spooky monster cats away (Caden Matsumoto and Jayce Labaguen) so they wouldn't frighten the other dogs (Riho Umitani, Vincent and Cora Saito) even if the other dogs teased him all of the time. Emma

Debbie Kubota

Yonamine did an outstanding job as narrator. The fun message culminated with the congregation singing "I Wish I Were an Oscar Mayer Wiener," accompanied by Wayne Yoshioka on the piano. Much appreciation to Miki Saito, who was the costume designer for this production.

November 6 - Bubble Fun Day at Booth Park

With appreciation and gratitude to Jo desMarets, who donated bubble buckets and bottles of bubbles to the Dharma School, students, parents and teachers had a fun day at Booth Park. The day began with a brief service conducted by Rinban Hagio, then squeals of delight and laughter could be heard as young, old and everyone in between played with the bubbles. Our PTO President and Dharma School Dad, Thanh Giang, brought giant bubble makers for everyone to try...this really got everyone involved in being creative to see who could make the biggest bubble; beach balls added to the fun! By the end of the



morning, everyone chowed down on Zip Pacs and spam musubi. What a fun day!

Please join us for more fun Dharma School Activities in 2017!!!

Looking for Rennyō Shōnin and Meeting Gomonshū Kōjūn Ōhtani

The beauty of Japan was on full display during our October 15-23, 2016 tour which was sponsored by the Bishop's Office to celebrate the new Monshū's promotion.



Starting in Nagoya with a visit to Yoshiko Umitani's family temple (Honshū-ji) in nearby Kameyama, we were greeted by many temple members and the entire Toro family. Honshū-ji is a beautiful temple originally built by Rennyō in 1468, re-built in 1611 and is in wonderful condition today. We were treated to a tea ceremony including delicious Japanese sweets, and sangha members presented each of us with beautiful handmade items. We had a very warm welcome from Yoshiko's entire



family: mother, Hatsuko; father, Rev. Shoshin; brother, Rev. Jitsudo; and sister, Keiko. Rev. Umitani's entire family (wife Yoshiko and daughters Naho and Riho) joined the tour in Kameyama and Kyoto. The tour could not have started out in a better way for all of us!

On the way to Kyoto, we spent several days visiting other Rennyō and Jōdo Shinshū locations in Takayama (Higashi Betsuin), Kanazawa (Kenrokuen Castle Park and Gasshō Houses), and Yoshizaki Temple

(Rennyō's Hermitage); as well as an in-depth tour of the main Soto Zen seminary, Eihei-ji.

Kanazawa Castle Park is the center of the "the Peasant's Kingdom" where the Ikko-ikki sect (one of the original 10 Jōdo Shinshū sects that developed after Shinran's death) established its own province in Kaga from 1488-1582 CE. Rennyō visited Kaga to re-connect with the Ikko-ikki sect and to urge restraint while also teaching and attending to their needs.

The impressive "gasshō houses" (A-frame, thatched roofs) of Shirakawa-go were lovely on a fine autumn day. It was a great opportunity to see a unique historical village where many Jōdo Shinshū followers lived and shopped for local handcrafts.

Rennyō retreated to Yoshizaki after being threatened by Tendai warrior monks in 1471 and

submitted by Dexter Mar

stayed there for about 4 years. He gained a following from the Ikko sect and brought them back into the mainstream Hongwanji. We were greeted at the current Yoshizaki Temple by an enthusiastic Shin priest who presented the history of Yoshizaki and then the group walked up the mountain to a hilltop park to see Rennyō's impressive statue and a scenic view of the area.

In Kyoto, we enjoyed the New Miyako Hotel across from the bustling Kyoto Train Station about a mile from the historic Nishi Hongwanji "mother" temple. What a comfortable hotel and convenient location!

To begin our Accession Ceremony Day, a special reception for international delegations was held for the Canadian, American and Hawaiian districts. Naho Umitani joined her dad, Rev. Toshiyuki, in expressing the Hawaii's delegation's warm Aloha and confidence in the new Monshū's leadership. Naho and Riho



later expressed their personal commitment to the Shin Buddhist path by participating in an affirmation ceremony and receiving their Buddhist names.

In the afternoon, we joined hundreds



of Hongwanji members from all over Japan and the world in the Amida and the Founder's Halls for the Accession Service. This was literally an earth shaking event, as about 10 minutes into the ceremony a powerful (6.6) earthquake occurred in Western Japan about 165 miles from Kyoto. The massive hanging lanterns swayed and the ceremony was stopped for 15 minutes before starting over! How auspicious (though we know this was a natural coincidence)!

For those attending the March 2017 ceremony, we hope you have just as fantastic an experience as we did! Springtime in Kyoto will be beautiful!

The next day, our tour took a special trip to Mt. Hiei, where Shinran received his monastic Tendai training. We visited the Jogyo-do (the Hall of Constant Walking Meditation) where monks perform a 90-day walking meditation while chanting a 5-toned nembutsu. We were extraordi-

narily fortunate to enter and "walk in Shinran's steps" in a 2-minute version of the 90-day training! Our final day included a visit to Osaka Castle, to view Rennyō related areas such as the site of Rennyō's retirement hermitage, Ishiyama temple, upon which Osaka Castle was built after a 10-year battle with warlord, Oda Nobunaga.

Our tour group consisted of members from many Hawaii temples:



Betsuin (3), Moiliili (2), Makawao (2), Kamuela (2), Puna (1), HQ (4), Lihue (1), Waipahu (2). Revs. Umitani and Takahashi, plus the Kintetsu Travel Company provided a wonderfully informative and satisfying trip with good hotels and wonderful, delicious feasts! Namo Amida Butsu!!



Adult Ukulele Club



One
Thurs.
a Month
11 to 12
Call the
Betsuin office
for more info!

If you are unable to come to the temple and would like to have a minister visit you in your home, please call

**Rev. Yuika Hasebe
at 536-7044**



and request a home visit. We miss you and do not want to lose contact with you!

Betsuin BWA News and Events

Fujiko Motobu

HIGHLIGHT FOR DECEMBER:

YEAR END PARTY Sunday, December 11. The BWA will be celebrating Bodhi Day as well as our year-end party on Sunday, December 11th after the 10 o'clock service in the social hall. A lot of fun activities are being planned by the program committee. The ministers have been prompted to entertain the group with their hidden talents.

For all the senior members, it is absolutely uncanny how quickly the days, weeks, and months fly by. It seems only yesterday that we greeted year 2016, and we are already saying goodbye and getting ready to greet year 2017. A bunch of them, who will be celebrating their "Beiju", 88th year in 2017 were joyfully conversing about how wonderful it will be, that in three years, they will all become non-dues-paying BWA members. Do you know why? That's because they will all become 90 years old. These little old ladies will be sure to celebrate their

100th year in 2029. Can you guess who they are? There are at least seven of them, and you see them frequently. They are all mentally and physically active and are frequently seen at the temple, still cooking and helping around, although some of them are deaf, though not dumb. Dementia hasn't set in them so they are still very sharp mentally. They were all born in the height of the depression, so they are our own BWA living treasures. Don't you agree?

The new year, 2017, will bring forth a lot of energetic activities with the onset of newly elected officers, headed by President Wendie Yumori. Installation of the newly elected officers will be held in January, at the General Membership Meeting #1 of 2017. Please make plans to attend the meeting and meet the new officers, for they will bring forth many new ideas and activities for the ladies to enjoy. Let us enjoy all the activities that the BWA will bring forth in the future and

participate a hundred percent. Let us eat healthy food, exercise, stay positive and friendly, and appreciate our daily living. The ministers are advertising that they will visit us at our homes if we cannot make it to the temple, so take such opportunity and go for it! Just remember to say Namu Amida Butsu.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOLDED PAPER CRANES: At


the VETERAN'S DAY PARADE, the folded paper cranes were distributed and those people who received them were very grateful and happy. This was the first year that we honored the vets and all the viewers with paper cranes, so they were all delighted and we are all out of the cranes. Now, we need you to fold more, for **MARTIN LUTHER KING PARADE** will be coming up next in Waikiki on January 16, 2017. Please begin folding paper cranes again, for in the past we have always distributed paper cranes. This coming year the PBA students and parents will be encouraged to participate and walk with the BWA women, so it should be a merrier event. We need lots of paper cranes. Please help. You can keep mentally alert by folding cranes, and BWA will appreciate them very much.

SOME TIME FOR CHUCKLES: #1.

Be true to your teeth, or they will be false to you.


#2. My husband's parents came to dinner. I wanted to serve roast, but all I could find was hamburger. Suddenly, I had a flash of genius. I put the hamburger in the oven and set the controls for ROAST. Much to my disappointment, it still came out hamburger.


*The Wisteria Ballroom Dancing Club
Invites You to Dance!*





On Break For Month
of December 2016!

Dances change every 8 weeks,





For Information, please contact
Claire Groom (286-3486)
or Mary Fujitani (595-4533)

Mini-Market Day at Hawaii Betsuin

November 6, 2016

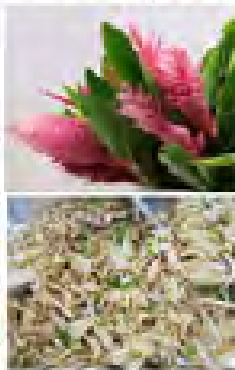
Photos by Ruth Tokumi



Betsuin kitchen busy with preparation for Mini-Market by BWA ohana and for adult service refreshments by Betsuin ohana



BWA Asaji ladies



**Hongwanji
Radio Programs
DECEMBER 2016
KZOO 1210 AM
Japanese Language
Saturday at 7:30 AM**

- 03 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
10 Rev. Ryoso Toshima
17 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
24 Rev. Hiromi Kawaji
31 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

**Betsuin Services
Asaji Service
8:00 AM**

- 04 HBC Bodhi Day at
Jodo Mission 9:30 am
11 Betsuin Bodhi Day
Rev. Yuika Hasebe
18 Rev. Joshin Kamuro
25 Rev. Satoshi Tomioka

**Adult English Services
10:00 AM**

- 04 HBC Bodhi Day at
Jodo Mission 9:30 am
11 Betsuin Bodhi Day
Family Service 9:30 am
Mr. Wayne Yoshioka
18 Rev. Toyokazu Hagio
25 Rev. Yuika Hasebe

**Nicchu Service
1:00 PM**

- 04 HBC Bodhi Day at
Jodo Mission 9:30 am
11 Betsuin Bodhi Day
Rev. Satoshi Tomioka
18 Rev. Yuika Hasebe
25 Rev. Joshin Kamuro

**Dharma School
9:00 AM**

- 04 HBC Bodhi Day at
Jodo Mission 9:30 am
11 Betsuin Bodhi Day
Family Service 9:30 am
Mr. Wayne Yoshioka
18 Dharma School Teacher
25 No Dharma School service

In Memoriam



OCTOBER 2016

The Hawai'i Betsuin extends its deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

7/14/2016 OKURA, Gary Nobuo (69)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 GODA, Hatsue (96) | 19 KUWABARA, Edward Shunso (90) |
| 02 MUKAI, Evelyn Masako (99) | 21 NAKATANI, Richard Kiyonobu (94) |
| 02 SUMIDA, Sadamu (99) | 22 ITAKI, Alvin Teruo (65) |
| 06 KUBOTA, Jane Harue (89) | 22 USUI, Ruth Ritsuye (100) |
| 08 SUMIDA, Hatsue (91) | 22 YOSHIKAMI, Donald Tsuneo (79) |
| 10 YAMASHITA, Imi (81) | 24 MATSUURA, Sumiko (94) |
| 12 NAKAMOTO, George Yasuaki (65) | 24 OKUBO, Lloyd Tetsuro (71) |
| 15 KONO, Violet Fumiko (97) | 27 KAWAMURA, Ellen Tsutsumi (91) |

2016 Memorial Service Schedule

2016 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2015 – 1 year	2004 – 13 year	1984 – 33 year
2014 – 3 year	2000 – 17 year	1967 – 50 year
2010 – 7 year	1992 – 25 year	1917 – 100 year

Nursing Home Services

- 01 Hale Nani – Rev. Kamuro
Hale Ho Aloha – Rev. Kaufmann
08 Maluhia – Rev. Tomioka
Liliha – Rev. Hagio
09 Kuakini – Rev. Hasebe
22 Nuuanu Hale – Rev. Kamuro
23 Leahi – Rev. Tomioka



The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of un-hindered light. This practice, comprehensively encompassing all practices, is perfect and most rapid in bringing them to fullness. For this reason, it is called "great practice." Saying the Name then breaks through all the ignorance of sentient beings and readily brings all their aspirations to fulfillment. Saying the Name is in itself mindfulness; mindfulness is nembutsu; nembutsu is Namo-amida-buttsu.

-Shinran Shonin